

This brochure is designed to inform you whether signs are in compliance with the Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. **Revised Code.** You can view the entire Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code online at www.municode.com.
2. **Public Right-Of-Way.** This is defined as any traveled way/public easement, and can generally not be used as a location for signs other than governmental signs.
3. **Sign Permits.** Sign permits can be obtained at the Department of Code Enforcement and are required, in general, to erect signs as described in the Revised Code.
4. **Utility Poles.** Other than a governmental agency, at no time is it permitted in Marion County to place signs upon any utility pole (i.e. light poles, traffic signals, street signs).
5. **Violations.** Violations can result in citations, a court appearance, and fines up to \$2,500.

Revised: January 2016

Department of Code Enforcement

Driving public safety and improving quality of life in the City of Indianapolis / Marion County through the strategic application of civil code regulation, and the efficient and effective administration of:

- PERMITS
- LICENSES
- INSPECTIONS

For a complete list of services and resources, visit us online, in person or give us a call!

LOBBY HOURS:

Mon, Tue, & Thu: 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Wed: 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Fri: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Sat, Sun & Holidays: Closed

Questions regarding case history, permits, reports and enforcement? Visit the Citizen Access Portal Indy.gov/dce/research.



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To report an ordinance violation or neighborhood concern:

By Phone: (317) 327-4MAC (4622)

Go Online: Indy.gov/RequestIndy

Mobile App: RequestIndy (iPhone/Android)



SIGN REGULATIONS

Check before you hang, post or place a sign to determine whether it is legal or requires a permit.



DCE
DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

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PROHIBITED SIGNS

Sec. 734-202. PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following signs are prohibited in all zoning districts: (For details please view the entire code)

- (a) **Signs in the public right-of-way.** No sign or sign structure may be placed on or in the right-of-way of an alley or a street, with the exception of governmental and public signs and signs associated with an approved outdoor café within the Regional Center (as noted in section 734-204(k), or projecting signs permitted by this chapter and having obtained an encroachment license from the proper governmental agency.
- (b) **Signs which interfere with official signs/ traffic devices.**
- (1) No sign or structure shall be permitted which attempts or appears to attempt to direct the movement of traffic or which interferes with or obstructs the view of, or can be confused with, imitates, or resembles any official traffic sign, signal, or device. No rotating beam or flashing illumination resembling any emergency light shall be used in connection with any sign display.
 - (2) No sign shall be permitted which prevents the driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view, from an adequate and safe distance, of any official sign and approaching or merging traffic.



- (c) **Interference with street intersections.** No sign or sign structure shall be located in such a manner as to materially impede the view of any street or highway intersection or in such a manner as to materially impede the view of the intersection of a street or highway with a railroad crossing.
- (d) **Prohibition of signs affixed to utility poles, etc.** No sign or sign structure shall be affixed to, displayed, or located upon any utility pole, light standard, public transportation or school bus passenger shelter or bench, traffic control device, or similar structure, equipment, or appurtenance located upon any public right-of-way, utility easement, or other public or private property.
- (e) **Signs on natural features.** No signs shall be permitted to be painted on, attached to, or maintained upon trees, rocks, or other natural features.
- (f) **Pennants.** Pennants shall not be permitted.
- (g) **Banners.** Banners shall not be permitted.
- (h) **Wind signs.** Wind signs shall not be permitted.
- (i) **Portable signs.** Portable signs including but not limited to A- or T-frame, or signs on trailer frames whether or not the trailer wheels have been removed, shall be prohibited. No person shall park any vehicle or trailer or truck trailer on a public right-of-way, public property or on private property which is visible from a public right-of-way, which has attached thereto or located thereon any sign or advertising device for the basic purpose of providing advertisement of products or directing people to a business or activity. This section is not intended to apply to standard advertising or identification practices where such signs or advertising devices are painted on or permanently attached to business or commercial vehicles such as buses or cabs.
- (j) **Statuary, commercial.** Statues utilized and intended for commercial advertising purposes shall be prohibited.



- (k) **Outline lighting.** Outlining of property lines or open sales areas, whether flashing or constant, shall be prohibited.
- (l) **Balloon signs.** Lighter-than-air or gas-filled balloons, or other similar devices used to advertise or define a fixed location shall be prohibited.

EXEMPT SIGNS

Sec. 734-201(y). EXEMPT SIGNS.

(For a complete list please view the entire code)

Temporary signs. Temporary signs, including pennants and banners, shall be allowed in SU-1 (Special Use District 1; permitted use – Religious), SU-2 (Schools), SU-7 (Charitable or not-for-profit), and SU-16 (Indoor and outdoor commercial amusement) without obtaining a sign permit, provided that the signs do not exceed a size of 36 by 36 inches, subject to the following:

- (1) The temporary sign must be placed on the property of the owner of the sign and no more than one temporary sign for each public street frontage may be placed on a lot.
- (2) Temporary signs may not be posted for more than 28 hours.
- (3) No sign may be erected or posted in a public right-of-way.
- (4) No sign may be posted more than four times in any 30 day period.